

REMARKS

The claims of the present application were subject to a restriction requirement, and in a response filed on July 12, 2004, Group II (claims 6-17) was elected for prosecution in this application. Applicant hereby confirms the election. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file claims relating to the non-elected invention in a divisional application.

Claim Rejections

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12-17 are allowed. In addition, the Examiner objected to claim 11, but indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 has been amended such that it corresponds to original claim 11, rewritten in independent form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable, as well as those claims which depend therefrom.

In addition, Applicant has added four new claims, claims 18-21. As Applicant is not aware of any prior art which would anticipate or would render obvious these new claims, allowance of claims 18-21 is respectfully requested. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record, including Nassif et al. (United States Patent No. 6,606,587) and Yang et al. (United States Patent No. 5,469,366), fails to disclose or suggest a method for estimating wire delay comprising formulating a distributed RC model, calculating an approximate delay based on the distributed RC model, calculating a capacitance value based on the approximate delay which has been calculated, using the capacitance value in the Elmore Model to estimate the

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wire delay, calculating a wire delay without using a distributed RC model, and calculating clock skew error using the distributed delay and wire delay which have been calculated, which is what is being specifically claimed in claim 18. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18, as well as those claims which depend therefrom, are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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